



COLONY OF NATAL

REPORT

OF THE

POSTMASTER-GENERAL

FOR THE

YEAR 1902.

PIETERMARITZBURG :
"TIMES" PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1902.

THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—

I have the honour to submit my report on the Post Office Department for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

I took charge of the Department on 30th September, the date of the transfer of Mr. Brown to the Transvaal Postal Service.

The total revenue of the Department (Postal and Telegraph Branches) for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 1902, amounted to £193,521 6s. 8d., as compared with £139,328 12s. 3d., and the Expenditure to £126,162 10s. 3d., as compared with £98,852 12s. 2d., for the preceding Financial Year.

POSTAL BRANCH.

The estimated value of work done for other Government Departments, for which no payment is received, was £17,365 16s., and the postage value of newspapers conveyed free about £5,000.

The amount paid out on account of *Crisis*, *i.e.*—Abnormal expenditure caused by the war was £17,910 15s. 9d. Payments on this account ceased on 30th June.

During the continuance of the war postal arrangements were naturally much disturbed; but steps were taken to place them on a proper basis, and to resume services which had been temporarily suspended as soon as that course could safely be adopted.

Early in April the Overland Route for mails to and from Natal, Europe, Cape Colony, and Orange River Colony, and the running of the Natal Travelling Post Office between Newcastle and Elandsfontein in connection with the European mails were resumed. The first inward European mail was despatched from Capetown on 1st April; and the first corresponding outward mail was forwarded from Pietermaritzburg on 5th April. Regular services have since been maintained. The practice of forwarding mails for Europe by sea from Durban to Cape Town (a service carried out so creditably by Messrs. Rennie & Sons, and King & Sons), which was adopted owing to the overland route being closed, has been continued as far as the mails from Durban are concerned. By this arrangement correspondence can be posted at Durban, and at Post Offices in the vicinity, up to a later hour than would be possible if mails were sent by the overland route. Mails for Europe are despatched on Saturdays. The incoming mails generally reach Charlestown on Fridays—delivery of correspondence for Pietermaritzburg and Durban being effected the following day.

It has been suggested that Mail Packets should leave Southampton on Fridays instead of Saturdays. As this would mean the delivery of correspondence in Natal on Fridays, it is hoped that, for the convenience of the public, and the bettering of the conditions of the postal staff, who, under the existing conditions seldom get relaxation from office cares on Saturdays, the time is not distant when this desirable change will be made.

As intimated in the late Postmaster-General's report for the year 1901, it has not been possible to hold a conference of the representatives of the South African Postal Union. Arrangements are, however, now in progress for the conference to take place. The date and place of meeting have not yet been definitely fixed; but it is expected that the conference will be held in August next. In the meantime alterations which ordinarily would have been discussed at the next conference have been made by agreement with the Postmasters-General of the other Colonies.

Exchange
11/10
15 JUN

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued.)

The principal alterations made during the year were:—A reduction in the rates of postage charged for correspondence (including parcels) sent to the District of Lourenço Marques. The rates from Natal to that District are now the same as those charged for correspondence sent from one Colony of the South African Postal Union to another.

After correspondence between the Imperial and Washington Postal Authorities—extending over a number of years—arrangements were made for the establishment of a Parcel Post Service with the United States of America.

A Telegraph Money Order Exchange with Southern Rhodesia was instituted, and the preliminaries of a similar Exchange between Natal and North Eastern Rhodesia were also settled.

The rates of commission on Money Orders issued in Natal, and payable in the Orange River Colony, were reduced on 1st January.

Arrangements were made for a reduction from 1st January, 1903, in the rates of postage charged for correspondence—excluding parcels exchanged between Natal and Southern Rhodesia, and also from the same date for the sale of Official Post Cards at face value, and for the transmission of Post Cards of private manufacture to South African Colonies and places abroad. A reduction in the rates of postage charged for correspondence exchanged between Natal and the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and the sale of Official Registered Letter-Envelopes at face value are also being negotiated.

For the convenience of Soldiers on Active Service, the issue and payment of British Postal Orders in Natal, which it was intended should cease on 31st August, was extended to 31st December, on which date the privilege was withdrawn.

Arrangements were made for the Postal Orders sold in Natal to be of the same denominations as those sold in the United Kingdom. The new issue has not yet been received; but on its arrival Postal Orders of the value of 2s., 3s., 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d., will be on sale as well as Orders of the denominations now issued. Orders of the value of 12s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. will cease to be sold so soon as the present stock is exhausted.

Nothing has yet resulted from the suggestion made sometime ago by Natal that, to admit of small sums being readily remitted to and from the United Kingdom, a Postal Order Convention between the two countries is desirable. The matter is still under the consideration of the Imperial Postal Authorities.

Steps are being taken to extend to Postal Orders issued in Natal for payment in the other Colonies adhering to the South African Postal Union Convention, the rule under which the senders of Postal Orders can make up broken amounts by affixing unused postage stamps not exceeding 5d. in value.

It has not yet been possible to arrange a Parcel Post Convention with the Australian States. In view of the increasing trade between South Africa and Australasia a Convention is extremely desirable, and the importance of the matter has been urgently represented to the Federal Government. It is hoped that an agreement will shortly be entered into. At present parcels are sent *via* England.

An arrangement was entered into with the Post Offices of the Transvaal, Orange River Colony and Rhodesia, under which this Department acts as an intermediary for the exchange of Money Orders between those Colonies and Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong and British North Borneo.

Some of the smaller values of the new postage and revenue stamps (King's head) were placed on issue to the public in September. As, however, stamps of the higher denominations have not been received from England, the Department has not yet fully taken over the entire work in connection with the sale of stamps to be used for postage, telegraphic and general revenue purposes.

Money Order business was resumed on 1st January with a number of Post Offices in the Transvaal.

The Post Offices at Vryheid and Utrecht were taken over by this Administration on 1st July. Postal agencies were also opened in the new territory at Babanango, Lenwnek, Paulpietersburg, and Lüneberg and others are being opened where necessary.

Post Cart services were instituted between

Newcastle and Utrecht,
Dundee and Vryheid,
Vryheid and Paulpietersburg,
Eshowe and Melmoth,
Harding and Kokstad,

and the Post Cart service between Harding and Port Shepstone was increased from three to six times a week in each direction.

Stacks
18/8
JUN 1903

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

The necessity of obtaining permits for parcels forwarded to the Transvaal and Orange River Colony ceased on 1st July.

A horse and cart service for the conveyance of mails to and from the Railway Station at Newcastle was instituted on 1st February, and on 1st July a similar service was instituted for the conveyance of mails between the Durban and Point Post Offices, and between the Durban Post Office and Post Offices on the Berea.

On the opening of the railway to Ginginhlovu it was arranged for the Post Cart which formerly ran between Lower Tugela and Eshowe to run between Ginginhlovu and Melmoth *via* Eshowe.

The Post Office formerly known as "Hoskens" is now called "Normanhurst," and the office formerly called "Cleveland Hill" is now named "Mid-Illovo Central."

The Postal Agency at Albertina, which for some time after the District was re-occupied was under the control of this Department, was transferred to the Postal Department of the Orange River Colony on 1st July.

During the year 32 Post Offices and Postal Agencies were opened, and 11 closed, making the total number 317, as compared with 296 in 1901.

The general average salvage claim made under Maritime Law by the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company against addressees, of 10 per cent of the value of the contents of parcels on board the packet "Dunottar Castle," which broke down after leaving Madeira in November, 1901, was withdrawn.

In order to meet a public want, arrangements were made for the acceptance of letters for transmission as "train letters" at certain offices situated at some distance from a railway station. The arrangement applies to Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Greytown, Port Shepstone, Richmond, Stanger and Umzimto. At these places the public have the option of handing in, either at the Post Office or at the Railway Station, letters which they desire to be forwarded by the first available train.

The negotiations opened in the year 1901 for the purchase by the Government of the Durban Town Hall for use as a Post Office were carried through satisfactorily, one of the conditions being that the Department cannot take full possession until the new Town Hall, which it is proposed to erect, is ready for occupation by the Corporation. To afford the relief so urgently required, further accommodation in the present building was arranged, and additionally, a portion of the old Market House has been rented and will be used as an office for registered letters, parcels, and for general sorting. Accommodation will also be provided for private boxes. I regret to say, however, that the structural alterations necessary in the Town Hall and Market House have not yet been commenced. The lack of space, at the Durban Post Office especially, renders it impossible for the work to be properly performed, and the health of the staff is prejudicially affected by the trying conditions under which they have to work.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were finally made for the erection of the new Post buildings in Pietermaritzburg, and it is believed that the work will be commenced at an early date.

The building erected and used as a Parcel Office in Pietermaritzburg, and the removal of the postmen to another building in the Court gardens, gave much needed relief to the public as well as to the staff. Money Order business is now transacted at a separate counter.

The new Post Office erected at Mooi River has now been occupied. A wood and iron building has also been constructed at Pinetown for use as a Post Office. It is expected to be occupied in the early part of 1903.

The Post Office at Newcastle has been considerably enlarged with beneficial results both to the public and to the staff.

New Post Offices are in course of erection at the following places:—Charlestown, Dundee, Melmoth, Ngutu, Port Shepstone, Weenen; and the Howick Post Office is being enlarged.

New Post Offices have also been authorised and preliminaries arranged for their early construction at Ladysmith, Richmond, and Verulam.

Accommodation will also be provided on Railway premises at New Hanover for the Postal and Telegraph work to be undertaken by an officer of the Department.

Provision is being made in the Estimates for the coming Financial Year for the building of Post Offices at Vryheid, Utrecht, Paulpietersburg, and Ixopo. Arrangements are also being made for Postal and Telegraph duties to be undertaken by an officer of the Department at certain Railway Stations; and provision will be made for the necessary buildings.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

The question of the introduction at Pietermaritzburg and Durban of date-stamping machines has been considered. By the use of machines there would be a great saving of manual labour. The present limited accommodation at the offices mentioned precludes, however, the trial of machines, two of which are in the market—the "Columbia" and "Bickerdike."

TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

The following comparative statement shows the traffic dealt with during the last two years :—

Year.	Forwarded.	Received.	Transmitted.	Total.	Increase.
1901	830,314	860,580	980,136	2,677,030	352,197
1902	960,126	972,696	1,146,904	3,079,736	402,706

For the Financial Year ended 30th June, 1902, the receipts for telegraphic business amounted to £83,243 19s.—£9,543 11s. represented the value of work done for Government Departments, and £31,294 0s. 1d. the 50 per cent. reduction authorised by the Government on telegrams transmitted on behalf of the Military Authorities, making a total of £124,081 10s. 1d., an increase on the previous year of £41,315 11s.

In terms of an Agreement entered into, the Imperial Military Authorities are allowed free Telegraphic traffic up to a value of £1,500 per annum, calculated at full rates—all subsequent messages to be charged for at half ordinary rates. Prior to the year 1900 no payment was made to the Department for the transmission of Military telegrams.

The amount received from the Military Authorities for the transmission of Military telegrams was £31,294 0s. 1d., an increase of £16,282 7s. 6d. on the previous year's collections.

The following Telegraph and Telephone Offices were opened during the year :—

Amanzimtoti	Hermannsburg	Nqutu Road
Beacon Hill	Hospital Siding	Otto's Bluff
Baumont	Inyoni	Scottsburg
Boston Police Camp	Jacobs	Sea View
Brynbella	Marburg	Umbulwana
Dargle	Mimosa	Umhlangeni
Darnall	New Germany	Umhlatuzi
Euqabeni	New Scotland	Umlalazi
Fawn Leas	Nkandhla	Utrecht
Ginginhlovu	Noodsberg	Vryheid

The offices at Dewdrop, Nondweni, and Tugela Ferry, which were temporarily closed owing to the war, have been re-opened.

On the abolition of the hospital, the office at Hospital Siding, Howick, was closed in November.

The office at de Jager's Drift, which had been worked by the Military authorities after the re-occupation of the Northern portion of Natal, was handed over to this Department and re-opened under the name of Nqutu Road.

On the 31st December there were 186 Telegraph Offices in the Colony, as compared with 159 the previous year.

In the Engineering Branch a large number of works were carried out during the year, the most important of these being :—

NEW LINES ERECTED :

Upper Tugela to Olivers Hoek Pass (for the Military Authorities. This line has since been taken over by the Department).

Melmoth to Nkandhla (temporary wooden pole line for the Military Authorities, since dismantled).

Dalton to Fawn Leas and Noodsberg.

Mid-Illovo to Beaumont.

Howick to Dargle, *via* Dargle Road.

Port Shepstone to Marburg and Umhlangeni.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

Melmoth to Nkandhla (permanent line).

Pinetown to New Germany.

Lower Tugela to Umhlatuzi (Zululand Railway)

Loop line to Hermannsburg on the Greytown-Krantzkop line.

Loop line to Enqabeni on the Port Shepstone-Harding line.

Loop line to Boston Police Station on the Pietermaritzburg-Bulwer line.

NEW WIRES ERECTED ON EXISTING LINES OF POLES.

Two wires between Durban and Cape Border (beyond Harding), one for the purpose of giving the Durban office direct communication with the Cape Colony, and the other for the Eastern Cable Coy's direct communication between the Western Cable terminus at Capetown and the Eastern Cable terminus at Durban.

One wire between Durban and Lower Umkomaas, connecting with intermediate stations.

One wire between Pietermaritzburg and Greytown, connecting with intermediate stations.

One wire between Dundee and Charlestown, to improve telegraphic facilities with the Transvaal.

One wire between Clairmont and Durban, to extend the West's circuit to Durban and Point.

One wire between Pietermaritzburg Central Office and New Scotland (Pietermaritzburg).

Communication was established between Lower Umkomaas and Scottsburg by means of the Phonograph telephone.

The following lines were overhauled during the year :—

Durban to Pietermaritzburg (cross country line).

Melmoth to Umbombo.

Greytown to Krantzkop.

Greytown to Durlee.

Port Shepstone to Isipingo (cross country line).

The line between Howick Railway Station and Howick was re-constructed in order to carry it clear of a new rifle range.

The telegraph system of the new territory when taken over consisted of :—

A wooden pole line—in very bad condition owing to the damage sustained during the war—between the Buffalo River and Utrecht, and a temporary line erected by the Military Authorities between De Jager's Drift and Vryheid. The former was replaced by an iron pole line in November, and the latter has been overhauled and kept in the best possible repair pending the erection of a new permanent wire on poles skirting the railway line, for which materials have been ordered. It is hoped that the work will be carried out early in the ensuing Financial Year.

Provision has also been made for the erection of a line between Vryheid and Paulpietersburg. Electric Train Staff instruments have been fitted up at the following stations :—

Sea View.

Palmiet.

Caversham.

Lyndoch.

Kingston.

Harts Hill.

Leigh.

Mimosa.

Beacon Hill.

Umbulwana.

Utrecht Road.

Provision has been made for the establishment during the next Financial Year of telephonic communication between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. On the completion of the line it will be connected with the local telephone systems in the two towns, provided that the contemplated improvements in the local systems are completed, and that satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Municipal Authorities in Durban. Should, however, the trunk line be finished before the local systems are re-constructed, the public convenience will be met, as far as possible, by the provision of "call offices" at Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Later, the question of an extension of the trunk line to

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

Ladysmith, Dundee, and Newcastle, thence to Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town will be considered.

Several new telephone connections have been established with the Durban Railway Exchange; and a number of other works, including the installation of a Block Bell Signalling System between Berea Road and South Coast Junction, have been carried out for the Railway Department.

A number of private telephone lines have been erected in different parts of the Colony; and the Pietermaritzburg Telephone System has been considerably extended, as will be seen by the large increase of mileage and wire in use as compared with last year.

The number of connections at the Telephone Exchange on the 31st of December was 389, including "extensions" and Government connections. This is an increase of 101 connections during the year.

At the request of the municipal authorities, action in regard to the establishment of a Fire Alarm System in Pietermaritzburg has been temporarily suspended. So soon as it is decided to proceed with the work, arrangements will be made to connect the more important Government Offices with the Fire Brigade office.

Temporary premises having been erected near the site of the new Post Office, Pietermaritzburg, for the accommodation of the Telephone Exchange, the preparatory work in connection with the transfer of the system has been taken in hand, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed and the "Metallic Return" system introduced during the year 1903. When this is done the rentals for connections with private residences will be reduced to £5 per annum; and the annual charge for a first business connection will be £10, subsequent connections being at the rate of £5 per annum.

Materials for the establishment of Telephone Exchanges at Ladysmith, Newcastle, and Dundee are now arriving in the Colony; and the work of installation will be commenced as early as possible.

In order to provide additional facilities for the speedy transmission of traffic, it has been arranged, in conjunction with the Transvaal Postal authorities, to provide additional wires between Durban and Johannesburg.

Arrangements have also been made for the erection of extra wires to relieve the pressure frequently experienced on the existing lines connecting the more important offices in the Colony.

There is a marked improvement in the general behaviour of the Telegraph Messengers. They have not, however, taken full advantage of the Night School established for their benefit. In order to increase the desire for educational improvement, it has recently been arranged to grant a bonus for regular attendance and general advancement in school work. This special inducement to learn will, perhaps, have a stimulating effect on the whole of the messenger staff.

Youths anxious to better their position can, by attending a Night School and passing a satisfactory educational test, become eligible for promotion to Postmen and thence to Sorters. They are also afforded opportunities of learning telegraphy with a view to qualify for a Clerkship. It will be seen, therefore, that a career in the Service is offered to every boy entering it.

To facilitate the delivery of telegrams it is necessary to have regular messengers at certain of the larger Railway Telegraph Offices; and, as native labour is uncertain and unsatisfactory, arrangements have been made for the employment of a number of indentured Indians at these offices for telegraph purposes.

The system introduced last year, whereby the Learners entering the Department are required to devote the whole of their daily attendance to the study of telegraphy until they are proficient, continues to give excellent results.

Seven learners were placed on the fixed establishment during the year. The number at present employed is forty-eight, many of whom will shortly qualify for permanent appointments.

Owing to the cessation of Military operations the special arrangements which were made for the exchange of cablegrams at reduced rates with the troops engaged in South Africa were discontinued on the 1st October; and all cable messages were charged for at full rates from that date.

On the same date the restrictions upon Telegraphic correspondence to Europe from South and East Africa were withdrawn; and the use of Mercantile and other private codes, both for Inland Telegrams and Cablegrams, was permitted.

The Telegraph offices in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony, with which there was no communication during the war, have been re-opened; and normal telegraphic conditions now

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

prevail. At certain offices in the Colony the hours of attendance have been extended to meet increased public requirements. With these exceptions the ordinary hours of attendance in force before the war have been reverted to.

During the year the Department sent telegraphists to give assistance at a number of the Railway Stations where Burgher Camps were situated, and has also had to provide clerks for the offices at Vryheid and Utrecht.

The stamps available for telegraph purposes only were abolished and stamps introduced for postal, telegraph, and revenue uses.

Serious delays to Transvaal, Cape Colony, and Orange River Colony traffic were experienced during the greater part of the year owing to frequent interruptions caused by faulty lines in those Colonies. Most of the trunk lines—which were badly damaged during the war—have now, however, been repaired; and the delivery of telegrams is being effected without delay.

As the receipts for the year of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company exceeded £300,000 the annual subsidy of £825 payable by Natal was refunded, in terms of the Agreement with the Company.

On the 1st January the Cable rate to Europe was reduced from 3/6 to 3/- per word, and during the year reductions were made to nearly all parts of the world. The rate to Europe will be further reduced from 3/- to 2/6 a word from the 1st January, 1903.

The International Telegraph Conference, which was to have been held in London in 1901, has now been definitely fixed for the 26th of May next. This Colony will be represented by the delegates from the British Postal Service.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The number of persons employed by the Department on 31st December, 1902, was 1,274, of whom 269 were on the fixed Establishment.

The work of the Department continues to grow rapidly. There was an increase of approximately 44 per cent. in the number of Postal articles dealt with in the year 1902, as compared with the year 1901; and this increase is the more remarkable in view of the fact that the returns for the year 1901 showed the exceptionally large increase of 63 per cent. over the returns for the previous year. This abnormal growth of business not only accentuates the difficulty in the way of providing adequate office accommodation, but renders large additions to the staff imperative. In all grades the difficulty of obtaining the services of suitable men is acutely felt. For the higher branches of the Service special qualifications are essential: and the work of the Department has increased so quickly that the number of youths entering as Learners who qualify for the higher branches has not, up to the present, been sufficiently large to fulfil the requirements of the Service. Recourse has, therefore, to be had to the Imperial Post Office, from which, during the last year, 29 skilled telegraphists and Postal clerks had to be imported. In view, however, of the fact that there is a constant drain upon the Imperial Post Office for men, not only for this Department, but also for the Post Offices of the other South African Colonies, it is inadvisable to place too great reliance upon this source of supply; and we must, therefore, look still more in the future to the youths of the Colony to become Learners and qualify for appointment on the fixed Establishment.

There is still trouble in securing the services of a sufficient number of Postmen and Telegraph Messengers, notwithstanding the material improvement in the scales of pay and prospects. As in the case of Telegraphists and Postal clerks, the Department has had to fall back upon the Home Service, through which it has succeeded in engaging a number of Postmen. There are strong objections to the employment of unknown men for this work; and preference is given to suitable applicants who have previously served in the Army and have a "very good" discharge.

The effect of the native labour problem has been felt in the Post Office. Both in the town and country districts the general increase experienced throughout Natal in the wages of kaffirs has rendered it necessary to increase the wages of natives. As many hundreds are employed the result is a large addition to the expenditure of the Department. Moreover, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain the services of suitable mail carriers, even at an increased rate of pay. Much difficulty has also been experienced throughout the year in obtaining natives for construction and maintenance works.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

Through stress of work at the Head Office, due to shortness of staff, the usual periodical inspections of Post Offices have not been performed. This important work has not, however, been overlooked; and arrangements will be made for it to be undertaken when the staff has been augmented.

It is satisfactory to report that there has been a decrease in the number of telegrams sent "On Service." This points to a less extravagant use of the wires than in past years. The telegraph is still resorted to by Government Departments when communication by post would answer the purpose; and brevity is frequently ignored. This irregular use of the telegraph is apt, in times of pressure, to delay important Government and private telegrams.

The only obstacle in the way of the Department undertaking the transaction of Savings Bank business is the want of accommodation at the Head Office and at Durban. So soon as these difficulties are removed there will be nothing to hinder the transfer of the Savings Bank to the Postal Department.

The colour of Postmen's and Telegraph Messengers' uniforms was changed from khaki to dark blue, which, besides having a smarter effect, is found to be more satisfactory than khaki colour.

During the year a native was prosecuted for being in fraudulent possession of a registered letter containing a Money Order. He was convicted, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

Within the last few months a number of trained clerks have accepted appointments in the Transvaal Postal Service, the various branches of the Postmaster-General's Department in particular having suffered in this respect.

The loss of so many efficient officers seriously intensified the strain on the staff; and it will be necessary again to fall back on the Imperial Post Office for men to fill some of the vacancies that now exist.

During the year the Department lost the services of Mr. J. Frank Brown, Postmaster-General, Messrs. A. Laing, C. H. Webster, G. H. Hedges, J. Fellows, and a number of temporary clerks, owing to their transfer to the Transvaal Post Office; in addition to which twelve Officers resigned from the Service. It has also been arranged for Messrs. J. Bennett, G. E. Gummow, H. E. Phillipson, A. E. Rose, A. Russell, F. G. Wiltshire, G. Gnutridge, J. Webber, and F. G. Whittaker, to be transferred to the Transvaal Post Office early in 1903. Moreover the Department lost the services of Messrs. J. B. Craddock, R. F. A. Tully, and P. Drummond by death.

The absences on account of sickness are still numerous. The continued pressure of business, and the reduced staff necessitating the performance of so much overtime, are, no doubt, the chief causes. It is hoped that the time will soon arrive when officers will be called upon to take a portion, at least, of their vacation leave annually. With the introduction of this rule, and the appointment of official doctors for the Service, as in the United Kingdom, the absences in consequence of ill-health will probably greatly diminish. It should be borne in mind, however, that, ordinarily, the nature of Post Office work is arduous and exacting, and the time for recreation limited.

Arrangements were made from 1st July for a class of sorters at Pietermaritzburg and Durban on a scale of salary from £100 to £300 per annum, with an efficiency bar at £160. These officers are recruited chiefly from Postmen; and the arrangement has been found to work satisfactorily.

In conclusion, I beg leave to mention that Mr. Higgs, the Civil Service Commissioner, visited the Department at the end of last and the beginning of this year. On going through the Pietermaritzburg Post Office he remarked on the heavy, antiquated, and expensive nature of sorting-stands and fixtures. It was pointed out that many of the articles were old, that they answered the purpose very well, and that everything would be up-to-date in the new buildings. Attention was also drawn to Cash Reserves at Post Offices which, in some instances, appeared to be greatly in excess of requirements. However, in regard to this it should be stated that the Daily Cash Account System was not introduced until 1st September. Hardly sufficient time had, therefore, elapsed to perfect the system.

Since the end of the year 1899, the strain upon the Postal and Telegraph Department has been intense; and few people outside the Department realise the enormous difficulties experienced in coping with the work.

Every effort was made to contend quickly with the heavy telegraphic work anticipated in connection with the visit of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies. A special travelling staff of telegraphists was organised, and everything possible done to meet the requirements and convenience of the Press representatives. The number of "Press" words transmitted totalled 418,533.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

The vast amount of extra labour involved in dealing with this special work will, perhaps, be better realised when it is pointed out that the number of words mentioned would fill more than 300 columns of a local newspaper. Special thanks are due to Mr. R. W. Weightman and Mr. J. M. Laing for the highly satisfactory engineering and traffic arrangements made; and to the staff for dealing so admirably and expeditiously with the unprecedented volume of work, establishing a record of which any Administration might be proud. The laudatory remarks of the Press, and the recognition of the excellent work done on its behalf were gratifying to, and appreciated by, the officers of the Department.

The conduct of the Officers of the Department has, with an isolated exception here and there, been praiseworthy; and I cannot speak too highly of the zealous manner in which they have performed their duty, sometimes under most trying conditions.

Statistics relating to the work of the Department are appended.

A. J. NORRIS,

Acting Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Pietermaritzburg, 25th March, 1903.

REPORT OF THE POST

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL

EXPENDITURE.	Financial Year 1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901.	Financial Year 1st July, 1901, to 30th June, 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	50,550 7 2	83,659 16 11	33,109 9 9	...
<i>Mails.</i>				
Travelling Post Office ... ..	...	360 17 0	360 17 0	...
Private Ships	385 3 4	257 7 4	...	127 16 0
Landing and Shipping Mails	550 5 0	620 13 0	70 8 0	...
Inland Contracts	9,292 9 7	11,146 0 0	2,153 10 5	...
(a) Native Carriers, Stampers and Mes- sengers	4,069 12 2	...	...	4,069 12 2
(a) Rations and Clothing to Carriers	1,972 4 11	...	...	1,972 4 11
Supply and Repair of Mail Bags, &c.	430 6 4	235 17 5	...	194 8 11
(a) European Letter Carriers	4,433 17 9	...	...	4,433 17 9
	21,133 19 1	12,920 14 9	2,584 15 5	10,797 19 9
<i>Contingent and other Expenses.</i>				
(a) Commission on Sale of Stamps	650 7 9	...	...	650 7 9
(a) Overtime Attendance, sorting Sea- borne Mails	2,087 4 11	...	...	2,087 4 11
Petty Expenses, including Date Stamps	629 18 0	717 6 11	87 8 11	...
Travelling Expenses	487 6 8	650 7 9	163 1 1	...
(a) Commission to Postmasters not wholly employed by Department	30 16 7	...	...	30 16 7
(a) Remuneration to Stationmasters as Postmasters	103 18 6	...	...	103 18 6
(a) Learners and Probationers	559 12 8	...	...	559 12 8
Battery and Instrument Materials	614 19 10	1,545 5 3	930 5 5	...
(a) Percentage to Stationmasters	1,117 10 11	...	...	1,117 10 11
Porterage and Disbursements	56 0 2	31 11 2	...	24 9 0
Uniform Clothing for European Mes- sengers	350 3 6	1,351 8 6	1,001 5 0	...
(b) Stationery, Printing and Stamps	922 15 3	...	...	922 15 3
(a) Allowances in lieu of Quarters	90 0 0	...	...	90 0 0
Bicycles for European Messengers	263 5 3	445 15 10	182 10 7	...
Refund on Rhodesian Messages	464 0 11	661 18 5	197 17 6	...
	8,428 0 11	5,403 13 10	2,562 8 6	5,586 15 7
<i>Maintenance.</i>				
Maintenance of Lines	794 9 4	2,845 8 6	2,050 19 2	...
Carried forward	£80,906 16 6	£104,829 14 0	£40,307 12 10	£16,384 15 4

NOTE.—During the Financial Year 1901-1902 the items marked (a)
" " " (b)

MASTER-GENERAL (continued).

AND TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

REVENUE.	Financial Year 1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901.	Financial Year 1st July, 1901, to 30th June, 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Postage Stamps, etc....	74,399 7 6	93,702 16 1	19,303 8 7	...
Transit of Correspondence ...	4,803 17 7	8,224 5 1	3,420 7 6	...
Sale of Telegraph Stamps, and Collections in lieu of Stamps ...	31,438 12 8	40,712 0 2	9,273 7 6	...
Poundage on Postal Orders ...	397 14 8	580 12 1	182 17 5	...
Private Box Rents ...	1,111 19 3	1,175 6 0	63 6 9	...
Commission on Stamps purchased ...	1 11 9	1 11 9	...	...
Private Bag Rents ...	293 13 4	359 2 9	65 9 5	...
Fees on Money Orders issued ...	4,240 17 3	5,220 1 9	979 4 6	...
Commission on Money Order Accounts	327 14 3	474 9 3	146 15 0	...
Registration Fees, Telegraph ...	407 8 0	533 8 0	126 0 0	...
Telephone Subscriptions ...	1,870 0 6	2,453 11 2	585 10 8	...
Amounts received from Eastern Company	2,179 1 8	2,922 7 11	743 6 3	...
Received from Chief Paymaster on Transmitted Military Messages ...	15,011 12 7	3,294 0 1	16,282 7 6	...
Sale of Government Property, Postal ...	4 9 0	2 19 0	...	1 10 0
„ „ Telegraph	13 5 11	459 19 7	446 13 8	...
Forfeited Money Orders ...	210 16 2	514 17 4	304 1 2	...
Sums Refunded, Postal ...	132 2 4	...	...	132 2 4
„ „ Telegraph	...	838 11 3	838 11 3	...
Special Receipts, Postal ...	22 3 0	20 6 3	...	1 16 3
„ „ Telegraph	16 4 4	...	...	16 4 4
General Deposits, Postal ...	32 2 0	0 19 10	...	31 2 2
„ „ Telegraph	1 18 8	136 1 11	134 3 3	...
Carried forward ...	£136,916 12 5	£189,529 7 9	£52,895 10 5	£182 15 1

were brought up under the head of Salaries.
were transferred to Colonial Office Stationery Vote.

REPORT OF THE POST

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL

EXPENDITURE.	Financial Year 1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901.	Financial Year 1st July, 1901, to 30th June, 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	80,906 16 6	164,829 14 0	40,307 12 10	16,384 15 4
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				
Transit of Correspondence ...	9,400 12 9	7,238 4 0	...	2,162 8 9
Commission on Money Orders ...	1,253 16 1	1,699 6 1	445 10 0	...
Supply of Postage Stamps ...	2,085 6 3	1,350 12 8	...	734 13 7
Contribution to International Bureau	9 7 3	13 18 0	4 10 9	...
Loss of Registered Letters, Compensation	5 0 0	4 10 7	...	0 9 5
Compensation for Theft of Postal Note	...	1 0 0	1 0 0	...
Passages of late Postmaster-General's Family ...	227 17 0	...	...	227 17 0
Passages of late Postmaster-General's Family ...	226 18 6	...	...	226 18 6
Contribution to International Telegraph Convention, Berne ...	18 7 10	15 0 5	...	3 7 5
(c) Salaries, Maintenance and Rent, Telephone System ...	1,056 12 5	...	...	1,056 12 5
Electric Bells, Government Offices ...	109 14 1	266 1 4	156 7 3	...
Postage of Official Letters ...	87 6 5	104 19 1	17 12 8	...
Subsidy, Ocean Telegraphs ...	412 10 0	206 5 0	...	206 5 0
Improvements to Telephone System ...	1,750 7 1	6,380 13 3	4,630 6 2	...
Installation, new Electric Bell System, Legislative Assembly ...	137 0 0	...	...	137 0 0
Improvements to Telegraph System ...	...	1,159 6 11	1,159 6 11	...
Purchase of Adding Machine ...	...	75 0 0	75 0 0	...
General Stores ...	...	1,356 17 5	1,356 17 5	...
	16,780 15 8	19,871 14 9	7,846 11 2	4,755 12 1
<i>Rent.</i>				
Rent, Post and Telegraph Offices ...	1,165 0 0	1,461 1 6	296 1 6	...
	98,852 12 2	126,162 10 3	...	...
Balance in favour of the Department	91,797 15 0	131,496 6 2	...	...
	£190,650 7 2	£257,658 16 5	...	...

NOTE.—During the Financial Year 1901-1902 the item marked (c) was

MASTER-GENERAL (continued).

AND TELEGRAPH EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

REVENUE.	Financial Year 1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901.	Financial Year 1st July, 1901, to 30th June, 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	136,916 12 5	189,629 7 9	52,895 10 5	182 15 1
Reimbursements, Telegraph ...	2,404 7 10	3,811 13 11	1,487 11 1	...
Miscellaneous, Telegraph ...	7 19 0	...	...	7 19 0
Actual Revenue ...	139,328 19 3	193,521 6 8	54,383 1 6	190 14 1
Net Increase of Actual Receipts :— £54,192 7s. 5d.				
Value of Government Work, Postal ...	13,754 0 0	17,365 16 0	3,611 16 0	...
„ „ Telegraph ...	29,415 7 11	9,543 11 0	...	19,871 16 11
Reduction of 50 per cent. on Transmitted Military Messages ...	...	31,294 0 1	31,294 0 1	...
Value of Newspaper Work for which Postage is not paid—Estimated ...	7,500 0 0	5,000 0 0	...	2,500 0 0
Official Telephone Connection, calculated at Ordinary Rates ...	540 0 0	640 0 0	100 0 0	...
Electric Bells, Government Offices ...	100 0 0	282 2 8	182 2 8	...
Maintenance of Line between Durban and Observatory ...	12 0 0	12 0 0	...	...
Net Increase, £67,008 9s. 3d.	190,650 7 2	257,658 16 5	89,571 0 3	22,562 11 0
	£190,650 7 2	£257,658 16 5	...	...

shown under Salaries, Rent and Improvements to Telephone System.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

Payable in	1901.		1902.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	25,557	95,613 18 11	21,914	84,555 6 7	...	...	3,643	11,058 12 4
United Kingdom	47,226	166,396 0 0	65,291	238,484 12 6	18,065	72,088 12 6	...	...
Cape Colony	7,809	28,643 3 1	6,169	21,249 0 9	...	...	1,640	7,394 2 4
Orange River Colony	291	749 3 2	531	1,688 16 2	240	939 13 0	...	...
Rhodesia	134	568 8 11	101	256 7 11	...	...	33	312 1 0
St. Helena	112	315 11 3	117	339 7 0	5	23 15 9	...	...
Mauritius	793	2,763 10 0	1,129	6,004 6 0	336	3,240 16 0	...	...
India	12,716	82,132 13 0	15,557	100,133 2 5	2,841	18,000 9 5	...	...
Australasia	3,476	17,908 15 0	4,720	25,339 10 3	1,244	7,430 15 3	...	...
Ceylon	112	489 15 2	166	432 3 1	...	...	6	57 12 1
British Central Africa	3	15 19 11	3	1 0 0	...	...	..	14 19 11
Transvaal* ... ..	...	...	3,519	14,009 18 6	3,519	14,009 18 6	...	...
Total	96,229	395,596 18 5	119,157	492,493 11 2	26,250	115,734 0 5	5,322	18,837 7 8

NET INCREASE :—No. of Orders, 20,928 ; Value, £96,896 12s. 9d.

* Money Order Business suspended when War was declared.

POSTAL]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Issued in	1901.		1902.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	25,397	95,015 7 6	21,979	85,085 16 10	...	...	3,418	9,929 10 8
United Kingdom	4,632	15,827 9 10	4,561	17,723 8 7	...	1,895 18 9	71	..
Cape Colony	15,666	40,863 4 0	11,338	31,051 7 7	...	...	4,328	9,811 16 5
Transvaal * ... ..	...	...	17,404	60,939 1 11	17,404	60,939 1 11	...	...
Orange River Colony	2,027	4,737 19 6	2,808	7,501 10 9	781	2,763 11 3	...	...
Rhodesia	636	2,653 6 4	596	2,395 13 7	...	...	40	257 12 9
St. Helena	20	59 2 8	18	43 2 6	...	...	2	16 0 2
Mauritius	51	144 10 1	32	100 17 11	...	...	19	43 12 2
India	129	574 6 1	134	614 12 4	5	40 6 3	...	...
Australasia	272	1,039 3 4	377	1,932 8 5	105	893 5 1	...	...
Ceylon	11	26 12 9	15	15 17 11	4	...	...	10 14 10
British Central Africa	23	99 7 6	48	101 17 10	25	2 10 4	...	...
Total	48,864	161,040 9 7	59,310	207,505 16 2	18,324	66,534 13 7	7,878	20,069 7 0

NET INCREASE :—No. of Orders, 10,446 ; Value, £46,465 6s. 7d.

* Money Order business suspended when War was declared.

Postal.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.

Country on which Drawn.	1901.		1902.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Natal	826	£ s. d. 4,458 15 11	936	£ s. d. 4,839 14 2	110	£ s. d. 380 18 3	...	£ s. d. ...
Cape Colony	1,496	7,935 10 3	935	5,085 16 10	...	...	561	2,849 13 5
Transvaal ... ..	...	...	318	2,110 3 6	318	2,110 3 6	...	...
Orange River Colony ... ..	...	...	16	107 5 0	16	107 5 0	...	...
Rhodesia ... ..	...	...	3	24 0 0	3	24 0 0	...	...
Totals	2,322	12,394 6 2	2,208	12,166 19 6	447	2,622 6 9	561	2,849 13 5

NET DECREASE :—No., 114. Amount, £227 6s. 8d.

TELEGRAPH.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS PAID.

Country on which Issued.	1901.		1902.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Natal	861	4,681 19 3	941	5,489 8 3	80	807 9 0	...	...
Cape Colony	2,639	12,860 8 2	1,768	9,450 14 2	...	...	871	3,409 14 0
Transvaal ... ..	...	...	940	6,026 4 3	940	6,026 4 3	...	...
Orange River Colony ... ..	...	...	72	403 11 7	72	403 11 7	...	...
Rhodesia ... ..	...	...	6	43 10 0	6	43 10 0	...	...
Total	3,500	17,542 7 5	3,727	21,413 8 3	1,098	7,280 14 10	871	3,409 14 0

NET INCREASE: No., 227; Amount, £3,871 0s. 10d.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED BY THE ADJOINING ADMINISTRATIONS AND PAID IN NATAL.

Issued in	Denomination.										Totals.	
	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s.	12s. 6d.	15s.	17s. 6d.	20s.	No.	Amount.
Cape Colony	307	229	494	844	8	533	36	81	21	706	3,259	£ s. d. 1,382 8 0
British Postal Orders ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,553	21,899 14 9
Totals, 1902	307	229	494	844	8	533	36	81	21	706	35,812	23,282 2 9
„ 1901	278	246	520	1,045	27	770	49	100	48	902	*42,539	*27,227 3 6
Increase, 1902	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	1 9 0
Decrease, 1902 ... ..	...	17	26	201	19	237	13	19	27	196	*6,756	*3,946 9 9

*Including British Postal Orders issued by the Army Post Office.

NET DECREASE :—No., 6,727 ; Amount, £3,945 0s. 9d.

The Decrease is accounted for by the gradual reduction of the Military Force in South Africa.

POSTAL].

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS ISSUED IN NATAL, AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT IN THE
RESPECTIVE COLONIES DURING THE YEAR.

Where Paid.	Denomination.										Totals.	
	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s.	12s. 6d.	15s.	17s. 6d.	20s.	No.	Amount.
Natal	6,034	3,946	5,776	9,342	2,398	9,989	1,058	2,290	837	17,662	59,332	£ s. d. 30,322 0 6
Cape Colony	469	254	281	344	93	390	49	109	26	737	2,752	1,265 12 6
Orange River Colony	36	23	31	44	13	39	3	5	8	105	307	160 8 6
Rhodesia ... ..	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	0 14 6
Transvaal	145	142	127	182	46	169	17	50	15	387	1,280	629 5 6
Totals, 1902	6,684	4,368	6,215	9,912	2,550	10,588	1,127	2,454	886	18,891	63,675	32,378 1 0
Totals, 1901	5,011	4,025	3,986	9,725	1,808	8,793	851	1,799	611	16,395	53,004	27,367 3 6
Increase, 1902	1,673	343	2,229	187	742	1,795	276	655	275	2,496	10,671	5,010 17 6

NET INCREASE :—No., 10,671 ; Amount, £5,010 17s. 6d.

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued*).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF POSTAL DRAFTS ISSUED AND COLLECTED IN THE COLONY.

	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Drafts issued in Natal	31	41	10	...
" " " Cape for collection in Natal	71	45	...	26
" " " Natal, honoured	6	10	4	...
" " " Cape Colony for collection, honoured	18	10	...	8
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount of Drafts issued in Natal	116 18 4	177 7 9	60 9 5	...
" " " Cape Colony for collection in Natal	282 5 0	116 19 5	...	165 5 7
" Natal Drafts honoured	33 19 6	46 14 11	12 15 5	...
" Drafts issued in Cape Colony on Natal, honoured	73 14 10	31 12 7	...	42 2 3

NET DECREASE :—No., 20; Amount, £134 3s.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

POSTAL.

STATEMENT OF THE POST OFFICES AND AGENCIES OPEN ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1902, AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OPEN ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1901.

Class of Office.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Post Offices	226	256	30	...
Post Office Agencies	46	43	...	3
Agencies at Railway Stations	24	18	...	6
	296	317	30	9

NET INCREASE :—21.

STATEMENT OF POST OFFICES AND POST OFFICE AGENCIES OPENED DURING 1902.

Name of Office.	Service Established.	Name of Office.	Service Established.
Amanzimtoti	Six Days a Week.	Mona River	Three Days a Week
Babanango	Three " "	Muller's Pass	Six " "
Botha's Pass	Three " "	Marianhill	Six " "
Brynbellia	Daily.	Ndwedwe, M.S.	Three " "
De Jager's	Three Days a Week.	Ngotshe	Two " "
Fayle's	Six " "	Otto's Bluff	Six " "
Fort Yolland	Three " "	Paul Pietersburg	Three " "
Ginginhlovu	Six " "	Qudeni	Three " "
Inedintu	Two " "	Tafamasi	Three " "
Inyoni Rail	Six " "	Umbulwana	Six " "
Jacob's	Six " "	Umhlalazi Rail	Six " "
Kingston	Six " "	Umlalazi	Six " "
Lenunek	Three " "	Untunjambili	Three " "
Lilienthal	Six " "	Umzinto Rail	Six " "
Lunenberg	Two " "	Utrecht	Three " "
Mona	Two " "	Vryheid	Three " "

The following Offices and Agencies were closed :—

Albertina.
Beith.
De Jager's Drift.*
Embabane.

Hazeldene.
Meran.
Spitzkop.
Sunday's River.

Table Mountain.
Umkunga.
Wilgefontein.

* An Office was opened at De Jager's.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

POSTAL.]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DELIVERY
WITHIN THE COLONY; OF CORRESPONDENCE POSTED WITHIN THE
COLONY; AND OF NUMBER OF ARTICLES REGISTERED AT OFFICES
WITHIN THE COLONY.

Correspondence Received.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters, Official	1,142,479	1,310,816	168,337	...
Letters, Ordinary	13,731,744	17,270,656	3,538,912	...
Post Cards	321,841	374,764	52,923	...
Parcels... ..	168,844	213,512	44,668	...
Books and Sample Packets	2,514,291	4,783,844	2,269,553	...
Papers	3,820,388	4,040,556	220,168	...
Total	21,699,587	27,994,148	6,294,561	...
Correspondence Posted	17,302,727	27,632,284	10,329,557	...
Articles Registered	227,772	271,390	43,618	...

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ARTICLES DEALT WITH IN THE
RETURNED LETTER BRANCH.

Correspondence.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Returned to Senders within the Colony	80,265	104,089	23,824	...
Returned to other Countries	54,304	80,774	26,470	...
Destroyed	48,566	48,897	331	....
Total	183,135	233,760	50,625	...

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF THE NUMBER OF BAGS AND CASES OF PARCELS DEALT WITH.

	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Exchange between Offices in the Colony	355,844	401,356	45,512	...
Despatch to adjoining Territories	19,039	27,587	8,548	...
Received from adjoining Territories	21,081	26,109	5,028	...
Bags despatched to the United Kingdom	4,501	3,725	...	773
Bags received from the United Kingdom	8,060	9,997	1,937	...
Bags despatched to Foreign Countries	2,290	3,576	1,286	...
Bags received from Foreign Countries	3,168	4,984	1,816	...
Bags received in Transit	8,986	6,182	...	2,804
Boxes of Parcels despatched to United Kingdom	532	488	...	44
Boxes of Parcels received from the United Kingdom	3,242	4,940	1,698	...
Total	426,743	488,947	65,825	3,621

POSTAL.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (*continued.*)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FOREIGN AND OVERBERG PARCELS TRAFFIC.

	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Parcels despatched to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	17,339	19,163	1,824	...
Number of Parcels received from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	44,623	67,722	23,099	...
Total... .. / ...	61,962	86,885	24,923	...
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of Articles exported to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	16,124 0 9	15,380 18 2	...	743 2 7
Value of Articles imported from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	126,580 9 1	158,171 15 6	31,591 6 5	...
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Parcels and Letters from the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries ...	7,880 12 8	11,869 14 7	3,989 1 11	...
Amount of Customs Dues collected on Parcels and Letters from Countries Overberg...	683 18 0	1,214 2 6	530 4 6	...

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

POSTAL]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MILEAGE OF POSTAL ROUTE OPEN.

Service.				1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railway	...	...	...	618	633 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Post Cart	...	...	...	378	538	160	...
Carrier	...	...	...	2,297	2,322	25	...
Total	...	...	...	3,293	3,493 $\frac{1}{2}$	200 $\frac{1}{2}$	...

POSTAL]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXTENT OF POSTAL ROUTE TRAVERSED
IN MILEAGE.

Service.				1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railway	...	...	...	1,006,349	1,362,196	355,847	...
Post Cart	...	...	...	133,445	182,888	49,443	...
Carriers	...	...	...	972,008	1,062,840	90,832	...
Total	...	...	...	2,111,802	2,607,924	496,122	...

TELEGRAPH.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING MILEAGE OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINE AND WIRE.

	Telegraph.		Telephone.		Private Wires.	
	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.	Line	Wire.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Year ended 31st December, 1901	1,512	3,794½	29½	145	23½	80½
Year ended 31st December, 1902	1,598	4,241½	59½	401½	36½	113

TELEGRAPHS.]

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

RETURN OF CABLE TRAFFIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1902.

MONTH.	Number of Mes- sages received from Eastern Company for transmission to South African Stations.	Number of Mes- sages collected in South Africa and handed to Eastern Company for transmission abroad.	Total.	Payments to Eastern and Western Telegraph Companies.	Amount received on behalf of B.S.A. Company.	Amount received from Eastern Company on account of Prepaid Reply Messages.	Payments made by Eastern Telegraph Company for Messages handed to Department for re-transmission.	Value of Government Messages received from Eastern Telegraph Company for re-transmission.	Total amount received by Department on Messages received from Eastern Company for re- transmission.
1902.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ...	4,555	5,352	9,907	*0 10 0 6,616 18 9½	51 6 4½	43 14 2½	301 14 8	113 5 1½	510 0 4½
February ...	3,612	5,705	9,317	*2 12 9 8,345 6 1	41 16 10	18 18 0	188 1 0	85 1 2½	333 17 0½
March ...	4,816	5,450	10,266	*6 19 5½ 6,967 2 9½	47 12 4½	38 10 2½	234 4 8½	44 11 2½	364 18 6
April ...	5,814	5,608	11,422	7,205 14 10½	73 6 3½	48 19 0½	305 11 4	69 10 11	497 7 7
May ...	6,087	6,152	12,239	*5 1 7½ 8,891 6 0	72 15 9	58 7 4½	368 2 2½	81 18 4½	581 3 8½
June ...	5,729	5,864	11,593	*2 12 7 8,786 1 8	95 10 1½	57 3 9	362 1 4½	105 9 4½	620 4 7½
July ...	5,838	5,594	11,432	*2 13 9 9,522 19 9	106 8 3	52 15 9½	346 2 4½	142 1 7	647 8 0
August ...	5,518	5,606	11,124	*5 1 7½ 8,929 7 1½	85 2 9½	48 13 4½	318 17 10	135 17 10½	588 11 10½
September ...	5,408	5,221	10,629	8,628 4 3	81 15 11	42 13 7½	320 5 3	119 11 8½	564 6 6
October ...	6,027	5,739	11,766	*4 5 3 10,009 18 5½	60 7 4	51 1 5½	363 14 8	122 0 0	597 3 5½
November ...	5,447	5,026	10,473	*11 19 5 8,488 13 9	73 0 0	70 18 10	324 5 11	103 7 8	570 12 5
December ...	2,757	2,843	5,600	*199 6 0½ 4,280 7 6	47 3 2	36 0 4	172 11 0	30 16 9	286 11 3
Totals ...	61,608	64,160	125,768	96,923 3 6½	836 5 2½	567 16 0	3,605 12 4	1,152 11 2½	6,162 5 4

* Western.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (continued).

RETURN OF REVENUE AND TRAFFIC, YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

Stations.	No. of Messages forwarded.	No. of Messages received.	Number of Messages Transmitted.	Total.	Value of Government Work.	Revenue.	Total Earnings including Government Work.	Remarks.
1. Acton Homes ...	337	384	...	721				
2. Albert Falls ...	1,102	942	...	2,044				
3. Albertina ...	1,664	1,302	1	2,967				
4. Alexandra Junction ...	357	262	...	619				
5. Amanzimtoti ...	559	482	...	1,041				Opened in June.
6. Avoca ...	657	739	1	1,397				
7. Balgowan ...	771	710	...	1,481				
8. Batstones ...	1,869	1,789	...	3,658				
9. Beaconsbill ...	...	...	...	...				Opened in June.
10. Beaumont ...	206	164	...	370				Opened in May.
11. Belfort ...	51	36	...	87				
12. Bellair ...	1,936	2,782	...	4,718				
13. Berea Road ...	355	...	...	355				
14. Besters ...	1,217	972	...	2,189				
15. Boscobello ...	198	142	...	340				
16. Boston Police Camp ...	44	38	...	82				Opened in November.
17. Botha's Hill ...	226	145	...	371				
18. Brakwal ...	191	129	...	320				
19. Byrnbelli ...	163	141	...	304				Opened in February.
20. Bulwer ...	2,095	1,686	1,468	5,249				
21. Camperdown ...	1,147	1,223	...	2,370				
22. Cato Ridge ...	413	463	...	876				
23. Chaka's Kraal ...	416	365	...	781				
24. Charlestown ...	11,597	7,835	1	19,433				Formerly known as Umhlali River
25. Chieveley ...	500	396	...	896				
26. Clairmont ...	289	446	1,900	2,635				
27. Colenso ...	1,888	1,301	...	3,189				
28. Oonigella ...	184	349	...	533				
29. Dalton ...	1,777	1,442	579	3,798				
30. Danahausen ...	2,693	2,822	...	5,515				
31. Dargle ...	285	297	...	582				
32. Dargle Road ...	1,093	1,036	135	2,264				Opened in June.
33. Darnall ...	219	204	...	423				
34. Dewdrop ...	15	12	...	27				Opened in July.
35. Drummond ...	176	148	...	324				Re-opened in November.
36. Duff's Road ...	147	231	...	378				
37. Dundee ...	38,595	36,414	24,588	99,597				
38. Durban ...	316,891	319,889	194,272	831,002				
39. Durban Rail ...	2,580	151	8	2,739				
40. Durban Grand Stand ...	104	20	...	124				
41. Elandslaagte ...	1,573	1,460	...	3,033				
42. Enuersdale ...	707	696	1	1,404				
43. Enqabeni ...	116	99	...	215				
44. Eshowe ...	11,248	9,919	38	21,205				Opened in July.
45. Esperanza ...	452	405	...	857				
46. Estcourt ...	7,441	7,720	5,187	20,348				
47. Estcourt Rail ...	177	103	1	281				
48. Fawn Leas ...	244	223	...	467				
49. Fountain Hall ...	40	44	...	84				Opened in May.
50. Fox Hill ...	200	238	...	438				
51. Frere ...	628	597	...	1,225				
52. Gillets ...	2,185	1,820	...	4,005				
53. Gingshlovu ...	484	477	...	961				
54. Glencoe Junction ...	3,043	2,236	14	5,293				Opened in October.
55. Glen Isla ...	255	205	...	460				
56. Gourton ...	274	303	...	577				
57. Greytown ...	8,813	8,676	3,989	21,478				
58. Greyville ...	825	2,144	...	2,969				
59. Harding ...	3,704	2,726	2,194	8,624				
60. Harrison ...	97	93	...	190				
61. Hatting Spruit ...	3,646	2,544	...	6,190				
62. Helpmakaar ...	1,660	1,489	...	3,149				
63. Hermannsburg ...	58	34	...	92				
64. Highflats ...	338	326	...	664				Opened in October.
65. Highflats Police Station ...	31	50	...	81				
66. Highlands ...	915	982	...	1,897				
67. Hillcrest ...	2,293	2,206	...	4,499				
68. Hilton Road ...	1,541	1,610	3	3,154				
69. Hospital Siding ...	7,164	4,617	2	11,783				
70. Howick ...	4,427	4,576	5,618	14,621				Closed in November.
71. Howick Rail ...	1,578	1,359	6	2,943				
72. Ifafa ...	122	111	...	233				
73. Illovo River ...	737	690	...	1,427				
74. Impendhle ...	526	450	...	976				
75. Inchanga ...	3,174	2,529	161	5,864				
76. Ingagans ...	876	717	...	1,593				
77. Ingogo Rail ...	1,525	1,232	...	2,757				
78. Ingwavuma ...	1,021	725	...	1,746				
79. Inyoni ...	101	67	...	168				
80. Isipingo ...	870	1,002	...	1,872				Opened in October.
81. Ixopo ...	3,900	2,921	1,039	7,860				
82. Jacobs ...	3,636	2,668	...	6,304				
83. Kearsney ...	602	744	...	1,346				Opened in February.
84. Keat's Drift ...	458	149	1	608				
85. Krantzklouf ...	183	250	...	433				
86. Krantzkop ...	1,380	1,023	...	2,403				
87. Ladysmith ...	30,397	31,743	24,846	86,986	Half value			
88. Ladysmith Rail ...	2,908	120	93	3,121	Military			
89. Lidgatten ...	465	508	...	973	Messages,			
90. Loskop ...	141	148	...	289	Unpaid,			
91. ...	...	...	...	747				

616 793 15 9 667 056 9 9 4100 27 18 4

76. Ingagane	840	717	...	1,393					
77. Ingogo Rail	1,525	1,232	...	2,757					
78. Ingwavuma	1,021	725	...	1,746					
79. Inyoni	101	67	...	168					Opened in October.
80. Isipingo	870	1,002	...	1,872					
81. Izopo	3,900	2,921	1,039	7,860					
82. Jacobs	3,636	2,668	...	6,304					Opened in February.
83. Kearsney	602	744	...	1,346					
84. Keat's Drift	458	149	1	608					
85. Krantzklouf	133	250	...	433					
86. Krantzkop	1,380	1,023	...	2,403					
87. Ladysmith	30,337	31,743	24,846	86,986					
88. Ladysmith Rail	2,908	120	93	3,121					
89. Lidgetton	465	508	...	973					
90. Loskop	141	148	...	288					
91. Lower Illovo	357	390	...	747					
92. Lower Tugela	3,807	3,447	1,916	9,170					
93. Lower Umkomas	2,676	2,433	74	5,183					
94. Mahlabatini	613	600	221	1,434					
95. Malvern	1,217	1,629	...	2,846					
96. Manderston	342	426	9	777					
97. Mapumulo	718	574	...	1,292					
98. Marburg	66	92	...	158					Opened in July.
99. Melmoth	5,073	4,518	5,490	15,081					
100. Merebank	6,899	5,862	...	12,761					
101. Mid-Illovo	181	185	...	366					
102. Mid-Illovo Central	576	599	...	1,175					Formerly known as Cleve-land Hill. Opened in June.
103. Mimosa	...	...	...	...	
104. Modder Spruit	193	183	...	376					
105. Moguntia	569	484	...	1,053					
106. Mooi River	15,168	12,278	5,714	33,160					
107. Mount Edgecombe	1,089	1,053	...	2,142					
108. Mount Prospect	244	181	...	425					
109. Musgrave Road	4,932	18,752	...	23,684					
110. Ndwedwe	464	407	...	871					
111. Newcastle	96,439	90,697	34,701	221,837					
112. Newcastle Rail	284	113	1	398					
113. New Germany	20	32	...	52					Opened in November.
114. New Guelderland	270	433	...	703					
115. New Hanover	1,444	1,500	...	2,944					
116. New Scotland	2	1	...	3					Opened in December.
117. Nkandhle	544	456	...	1,000					Opened in August.
118. Nondweni	383	325	...	708					Re-opened in July.
119. Nongoma	1,055	1,042	2,039	4,136					
120. Noodsberg	83	101	...	184					Opened in May.
121. Noodsberg Road	445	515	...	960					
122. Normanhurst	355	301	...	656					Formerly known as Boston.
123. Northdene	261	407	...	668					
124. North Shepstone	1,111	641	...	1,752					
125. Nottingham Road	2,947	2,718	...	5,665					
126. Ngutu	1,641	1,590	...	3,231					
127. Ngutu Road	2,224	1,915	75	4,214					Opened in August.
128. Ottawa	167	292	...	459					
129. Otto's Bluff	80	59	...	139					Opened in September.
130. Park-Rynne	447	419	...	866					
131. Phoenix	195	287	...	482					
132. Pietermaritzburg	166,276	216,680	214,472	597,428					
133. Pietermaritzburg Rail	8,614	138	11	8,763					
134. Pieters	72	137	...	209					
135. Pinetown	2,857	3,133	7,330	13,320					
136. Pinetown Bridge	4,242	2,569	...	6,811					
137. Point	37,766	32,893	...	70,659					
138. Port Shepstone	4,783	3,968	5,903	14,654					
139. Reminton	180	284	...	464					
140. Richmond	4,987	5,779	4,883	15,649					
141. Richmond Rail	1,304	7	1	1,312					
142. Rosebank	116	114	...	250					
143. Rosetta	765	923	...	1,688					
144. Scottsburg	35	26	...	61					Opened in October.
145. Sea View	74	117	...	191					Opened in August.
146. Seven Oaks	1,063	933	...	1,996					
147. South Coast Junction	1,136	1,271	2	2,409					
148. Springfield	695	660	...	1,355					
149. Stamford Hill	760	1,374	...	2,134					
150. Stanger	4,090	3,718	11,623	19,431					
151. Stanger Rail	156	24	...	180					
152. Talana	1,740	1,062	...	2,802					
153. Thornville Junction	1,573	1,357	2	2,932					
154. Tongaat	2,369	2,338	...	4,707					
155. Tugela Ferry	66	51	...	117					Re-opened in October.
156. Ubombo	253	215	...	468					
157. Umbilo	3,529	2,481	...	6,010					
158. Umbulwane	21	10	...	31					Opened in March.
159. Umgeni	848	1,560	...	2,408					
160. Umhlali	342	507	...	849					
161. Umhlangeni	101	103	...	204					Opened in July.
162. Umhlutuzi	204	198	...	402					Opened in October.
163. Umlaas Road	517	415	...	932					
164. Umlalazi	191	120	...	314					Opened in October.
165. Umsindusi	223	222	...	445					
166. Umsinga	1,432	1,134	...	2,566					
167. Umtamvuna	713	508	...	1,221					
168. Umrwalumi	462	388	...	850					
169. Umzinto	3,334	3,435	6,828	13,597					
170. Umzinto Rail	240	7	...	247					
171. Umzambi	211	193	...	404					
172. Union Bridge	293	384	...	677					
173. Upper Tugela	1,438	1,010	492	2,940					
174. Utrecht	3,883	3,273	1	7,157					
175. Van Reenen's	2,603	1,769	...	4,372					Opened in July as a Natal Office.
176. Vant's Drift	1,294	1,477	14	2,785					
177. Veralam	4,752	4,919	5,465	15,136					
178. Victoria Road	135	25	...	160					
179. Vrijheid	11,426	9,264	...	20,690					Opened in July as a Natal Office.
180. Waschbank	1,953	1,687	43	3,683					
181. Weenen	1,237	1,166	...	2,403					
182. Wessels Nek	1,690	1,407	1	3,098					
183. West's	86	98	...	184					
184. Willow Grange	349	327	...	676					
185. Woodcote	119	162	...	281					
186. York	124	236	...	360					
187. Zwaartkop	654	890	...	1,544					
Totals	960,126	972,696	*1,146,914	†3,079,736					

* As each message involves two transmissions the total has been doubled.

† Includes 573,457 re-transmitted Messages.